

Tip for Kids —

Managing a child's behaviour without criticism

by Barbara Burrows

Parents are often encouraged to say, "I like you but I don't like what you are doing". This way of talking to a child doesn't encourage the child to reflect on her own feelings the way talking about what the child might be experiencing does. If parents can understand how difficult it is for children to behave at times, it will be easier to talk about the child's behaviour in a non-judgemental way without criticism. For example, a three year old might get behind the rocking chair her mother is sitting in to nurse the baby and roughly rock it back and forth. Actually, it is likely the child does not feel very good about this impulsive behaviour, but her feelings

of envy have become so strong, the child has not managed to control her wishes to upset her mother and baby.

The mother, if feeling patient, might be able to help by asking the child, "Is it hard to share mommy with the baby today?" Quite often young children act before they can even start to figure out what makes them want to do whatever they are doing. The way to help them get control of their behaviour is to help them realize more about the inner feelings and impulses that are urging them to behave in such a way.

If the mother's comment is not enough to help the child regain control, the mother could ad, "Would it help you feel better if I sat on the couch to nurse the baby so there

would be room for you as well?"

A child learns to control of impulsive actions when he is able to think about what he wishes to do. When the mother speaks patiently and kindly to the child, it encourages thinking. With the ability to think comes the capacity to gain control. The more parents can help children understand and figure out what to do about their difficult feelings, the better the child will be able to behave. By putting into words what was likely troubling the child, the mother helps the child realize it is hard to share Mommy, and knowing this helps the child manage better.

There is much to be gained by talking calmly to children without criticizing to help them gain control of unruly impulses.

HALLOWEEN Safety Tips



Halloween Safety TIP #1

Always dress for the weather & make sure costumes can fit over a coat.

Boston Pizza

315 Guelph St.,
Georgetown
905-877-8005



Halloween Safety TIP #2

Trick or Treat at houses you know

CHALMERS FUELS
& LUBRICANTS



(905) 877-5104
1-800-268-0194
www.chalmersfuels.ca

Mobil



Halloween Safety TIP #3

Wear Reflective tape or bright costumes



Acton Home Hardware

362 Queen St. E., Acton
519-853-1730



Halloween Safety TIP #4

Take a grown-up trick or treating with you.

Halton Hills Child Care Centre

60 Park Ave., Georgetown
905-877-5004



Halloween Safety TIP #5

Don't go into people's homes.



GEORGETOWN STORE HOURS
905-877-5172

Mon, Tues, Wed 9:30am-6pm
Thurs, Fri 9:30am-9:00pm
Sat 9:00am-5:00pm
Sun 12:00pm-4:00pm

11 Mountainview Road North, Georgetown



Halloween Safety TIP #6

Trick or Treat during daylight or dusk

BAYNES

Physiotherapy

Georgetown

Arthritis

Sports Injuries

Car Accident Injuries

905-873-4964



Halloween Safety TIP #7

Don't zig-zag across the street. Do one side, then the other.

OXFORD LEARNING

211 Guelph St., Georgetown
905-877-3163
www.oxfordlearning.com



Halloween Safety TIP #8

Be careful when backing your car up. Make sure the way is clear!

Scrapbook Crazy

20 Mill St. E., Acton

519-853-2401
www.scrapbookcrazy.ca



Halloween Safety TIP #9

Carry a flashlight to see where you are going.

King Pizza & Submarine

905-877-5177

10 Mountainview Rd. South
Daily Specials & Free Delivery After 4 p.m.